What is Claimed is:

10. (New) A process for the hydrogenation of an aromatic compound, wherein said aromatic compound is an aliphatic-substituted aromatic or a heteroaromatic compound having an asymmetrical carbon atom, comprising hydrogenating said aromatic compound in the presence of a platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst.

11. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said aromatic compound is an amino acid or an aromatic-substituted amino alcohol.

12. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w).

13. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation.

14. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support.

15. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; an alcohol; an ether; and mixtures thereof.

16. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said hydrogenation is performed under hydrogen pressures of between 1 and 100 bar.

17. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.

18. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein:

a) said aromatic compound is an amino acid or an aromatic-substituted amino alcohol;

b) the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w);

c) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation;

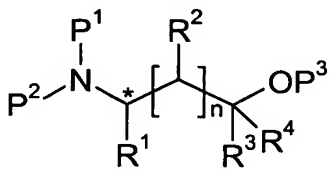
d) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support;

e) said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; an alcohol; an ether; and mixtures thereof;

f) said hydrogenation is performed under a hydrogen pressure of between 1 and 100 bar; and

g) said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.

19. (New) A process for the hydrogenation of the aromatic nucleus of a compound, comprising hydrogenating said compound in the presence of a platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst, wherein said compound has the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein
n can be 0, 1, 2

R^1 represents unsubstituted or substituted (C_6-C_{18}) aryl, (C_7-C_{19}) aralkyl, $((C_1-C_8)$ alkyl$)_{1-3}$ (C_6-C_{18}) aralkyl $((C_1-C_8)$ alkyl$)_{1-3}$ (C_6-C_{18}) aryl, (C_3-C_{18}) heteroaryl, (C_4-C_{19}) heteroaralkyl, $((C_1-C_8)$ alkyl$)_{1-3}$ (C_3-C_{18}) heteroaryl,

R^2 denotes H, OH, (C_1-C_8) alkyl, (C_2-C_8) alkoxyalkyl, (C_6-C_{18}) aryl, (C_7-C_{19}) aralkyl, (C_3-C_{18}) heteroaryl, (C_4-C_{19}) heteroaralkyl, $((C_1-C_8)$ alkyl$)_{1-3}$ (C_6-C_{18}) aryl, $((C_1-C_8)$

alkyl$)_{1-3}$ (C_3-C_{18}) heteroaryl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, $((C_1-C_8)$ alkyl$)_{1-3}$ (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl (C_1-C_8) alkyl;

R^3 and R^4 together denote an =O function or H or (C_1-C_8) alkyl, (C_6-C_{18}) aryl,

P^1 and P^2 mutually independently stand for hydrogen or an amino protective group or together stand for a bifunctional amino protective group,

P^3 represents hydrogen or a hydroxyl protective group or carboxyl protective group and
the C atom marked with * is an asymmetrical C atom.

20. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said compound is an aromatic amino acid or an aromatic-substituted amino alcohol.

21. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w).

22. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity

of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation.

23. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support.

24. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; an alcohol; an ether; and mixtures thereof.

25. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said hydrogenation is performed under hydrogen pressures of between 1 and 100 bar.

26. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.

27. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein:

a) said aromatic compound is an amino acid or aromatic-substituted amino alcohol;

b) the ratio of platinum to rhodium in said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is between 20:1 and 1:1 (w/w);

c) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is used in a quantity of 0.1 to 20 wt%, relative to the compound undergoing hydrogenation;

d) said platinum-rhodium mixed catalyst is adsorbed on a support;

e) said hydrogenation is performed in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water; and an alcohol;

f) said hydrogenation is performed under a hydrogen pressure of between 1 and 100 bar; and

g) said hydrogenation is performed at a temperature of 10°C to 150°C.